Delay in clearance of export cargo by A. I. godowns at Delhi airport

1184. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that it takes months together to get cleared the export cargo in the Air India godowns at the Delhi Airport resulting in loss|damage to the cargo besides loss of foreign markets for failure to fulfil the commitments in time due to delay in the clearance of the cargo;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity (with value) of the cargo lost|damaged annually due to delay in its clearance;

(c) what is the estimated quantity of export cargo (with value) accumulated in the Air India godowns in a month for want of clearance and what is the normal period taken to clear a consignment; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to streamline the procedure to ensure the clearance of the export cargo within a reasonable period to avoid its accumulation at the airport godowns and loss to the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Air India does not have any godown at Delhi Airport. International Airports ...ity of India accepts export cargo, ... it and hands it over to Air India ...ading on aircraft depending on confirmed load and space. On account of spurt in garment export through Indira Gandhi International Airport in the last garment season, there was congestion and backlog. Due to defecive packing, damage to the cargo was noticed during this period. No report has been received regarding loss of foreign market for delay in airlifting. A Cell has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation to monitor movement of export cargo. Extra sectional flights have been allowed to Air India as well as to foreign carriers for clearing backlog as and when necessary. A new cargo building has been commissioned for storage of cargo.

Safety of Exhibits for Festival of India, USSR

1185. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special directions have been given to avoid damage to the valuable ancient exhibits taken to USSR for the festival of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These guidelines provide *inter-alia* :

(i) Great caution should be exercised when the art objects are packed with best quality packing material under strict supervision of experts;

(ii) Armed guards should have round-the-clock vigilance over the art objects when packed;

(iii) Before packing each art object it should be cleaned and strengthened by the experts and condition report of each art object should also be prepared;

(iv) Each art object should be photographed from diierent angles for proper record at each stage;

(v) The value of each art object should be assessed by the Expert and Evaluation Committee duly constituted;

(vi) The art objects should be insured with insurance companies in New Delhi on a "wall to wall" basis;

(vii) Each consignment when transported abroad should be accompanied by a courier at the time of sending and also when bringing them back to India;

(viii) During the entire duration of a particular exhibition abroad one res-